

House File 348 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 348
BY COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 26)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the board of parole notifying a crime victim
2 of a parole hearing.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 915.18, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code
2 2015, is amended to read as follows:

3 a. (1) ~~Not~~ Except as provided in subparagraph (2), not
4 less than twenty twenty-five days prior to conducting a hearing
5 at which the board will interview an offender, the board shall
6 notify the victim of the interview and inform the victim that
7 the victim may submit the victim's opinion concerning the
8 release of the offender in writing prior to the hearing or may
9 appear personally or by counsel at the hearing to express an
10 opinion concerning the offender's release.

11 (2) The notification in subparagraph (1) shall be provided
12 to a registered victim not less than sixty days prior to the
13 hearing if the victim resides outside the state.

14 (3) The notification provided pursuant to this paragraph
15 "a" shall be by regular mail but electronic mail shall also be
16 used if the registered victim has requested notification by
17 electronic mail. However, electronic mail shall not be in lieu
18 of regular mail.

19 EXPLANATION

20 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
21 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

22 This bill relates to the board of parole notifying a crime
23 victim of a parole hearing. The bill requires the board of
24 parole to notify a registered victim not less than 25 days
25 prior to the parole hearing of the perpetrator of the crime.
26 However, the bill requires that such notification shall be
27 provided to a registered victim not less than 60 days prior to
28 the hearing if the victim resides outside the state. Current
29 law requires the board of parole to notify a victim not less
30 than 20 days prior to such a hearing.

31 The notification required by the bill shall be by regular
32 mail, but electronic mail shall also be used if requested by
33 the registered victim. However, electronic mail shall not be
34 used in lieu of regular mail.